

Good Afternoon. My name is Susan Maxwell and I'm a member at the Independence Center in Waterbury. I am here to today to ask you not to cut any funding to the DMHAS budget.

I'll be going to the Independence Center (I.C.) because I have my support there. The I.C. is very important to other members because I think it keeps us out of the hospital and is cost effective. The first time I was hospitalized I was nineteen. I'm doing very well now and I've been out of the hospital for quite some time. I work in Macy's and I've been there for 4 1/2 years. Working is good for me because it gets me out of my apartment and I get a paycheck. The I.C. has good programs like the WRAP Group (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) and the Pathways to Recovery Group. Years ago patients were hospitalized for a very long time. Now when someone goes to BTU or CTU in Waterbury Hospital they are in there for a very short time. Grandview has helped tons of patients. I still know most of the counselors there who I've known since I was very young.

If they put co-pays on our medications a lot of consumers would stop taking their medication and would end up hospitalized and start at square one again.

Please don't cut any funds and take away our programs because it would be detrimental to everyone.